

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage server in a storage area network connecting a plurality of host
2 computers and a plurality of storage devices, said storage server comprising:

3 a plurality of storage processors associated with said plurality of host computers
4 and said plurality of storage devices, wherein said plurality of storage processors receives a
5 plurality of command packets and a plurality of data packets;

6 a switching circuit connecting said plurality of storage processors; and

7 a microengine, wherein said microengine is configured to execute processing
8 comprising:

9 configuring a path between a first storage processor and a second storage
10 processor of said plurality of storage processors, via said switching circuit, in accordance with a
11 command packet of said plurality of command packets; and

12 routing a data packet of said plurality of data packets over said path, prior
13 to completely receiving said data packet, between said first storage processor and said second
14 storage processor via said switching circuit.

15 2. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said first storage processor includes
16 a lookup table that associates one or more virtual logical unit numbers (VLUNs) with one or
17 more physical logical unit numbers (PLUNs), wherein said one or more PLUNs are associated
18 with said plurality of storage devices, and wherein said one or more VLUNs are virtualizations
19 of said one or more PLUNs.

20 3. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said microengine is a component of
21 one of said plurality of storage processors.

22 4. The storage server of claim 1, further comprising:

23 a plurality of microengines, wherein said plurality of microengines are
24 components of said plurality of storage processors.

25 5. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said plurality of data packets are

received from one of said plurality of host computers.

1 6. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said plurality of data packets are
2 received from one of said plurality of storage devices.

1 7. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said plurality of data packets are
2 received from more than one of said plurality of storage devices.

1 8. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said plurality of data packets are
2 routed to one of said plurality of host computers.

1 9. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said plurality of data packets are
2 routed to one of said plurality of storage devices.

1 10. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said plurality of data packets are
2 routed to more than one of said plurality of storage devices.

1 11. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said microengine is further
2 configured to execute processing comprising:

 configuring a plurality of paths in accordance with said command packet.

1 12. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said first storage processor receives
2 said command packet from one of said plurality of host computers.

1 13. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said first storage processor receives
2 said command packet from one of said plurality of storage processors.

1 14. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said microengine uses a command
2 handle in said command packet to perform a tree search to configure said path.

1 15. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said first storage processor passes a
2 handle to said second storage processor.

1 16. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said first storage processor and said
2 second storage processor are a single storage processor.

1 17. The storage server of claim 1, wherein said microengine routes said data
2 packet according to a routing tag therein.

1 18. The storage server of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a virtual server controller configured to program, via a configuration command, a
3 lookup table in one of said plurality of storage processors, wherein said lookup table associates
4 one or more virtual logical unit numbers (VLUNs) with one or more physical logical unit
5 numbers (PLUNs).

1 19. A method of routing data in a storage area network connecting a storage
2 server between a plurality of host computers and a plurality of storage devices, said storage
3 server having a plurality of storage processors and a switching circuit, said plurality of storage
4 processors receiving a plurality of command packets and a plurality of data packets, said method
5 comprising:

6 configuring a path between a first storage processor and a second storage
7 processor of said plurality of storage processors, via said switching circuit, in accordance with a
8 command packet of said plurality of command packets; and

9 routing a data packet of said plurality of data packets over said path, prior to
10 completely receiving said data packet, between said first storage processor and said second
11 storage processor via said switching circuit.